

SAMPLE – SHADOWS OF THE CONDEMNED

Written by

Julia Dietrich

Characters by

Stanley Agbalizu



INT. COOPER'S LIVING ROOM, APARTMENT BUILDING - NIGHT

As Detective Cooper pours them both a drink, Detective Thorne notices the case files.

DET. THORNE

Do you ever turn it off?... Your  
need to find answers.

Cooper hands her the drink and then sits back down. Thorne waits for his answer, but he doesn't say anything. She sits down next to him.

DET. THORNE (CONT'D)

You really think there's more at  
play here huh?... What are you  
looking for?

Cooper ignores her.

DET. THORNE (CONT'D)

Cooper, look at the evidence. His  
watch and wallet were gone. Parker  
was off-duty. Based on the security  
footage the killer looked  
disorganized and frankly in shock,  
like he'd never done something like  
this before.

DET. COOPER

You think this was just some  
mugging gone bad? Some punk who got  
in over his head?

DET. THORNE

He probably panicked when he saw  
Parker's badge.

DET. COOPER

We can't be sure. I HAVE to be  
sure.

DET. THORNE

Have you always been so...  
meticulous?

Cooper shrugs. There's a pause.

DET. THORNE (CONT'D)

Did you always want to be a cop?

DET. COOPER

I guess so.



Thorne glances at the files and sees a picture of Parker.

DET. THORNE  
How long did you know him for?

DET. COOPER  
...I dunno. Long time.

DET. THORNE  
The Commissioner told me you were partners for years.

DET. COOPER  
Then there's your answer.

DET. THORNE  
He joined the force four years before you did, but really he's been in the force his whole life. His father was a cop, and his father before him, and his father before him.

DET. COOPER  
Yeah. He was very proud of that.

DET. THORNE  
And what about you?

DET. COOPER  
Me?

DET. THORNE  
Yeah. What's your story?

DET. COOPER  
Not much to it. I moved here for university. I saw some fucked up shit go down in my neighbourhood. I knew I was meant to be a cop. So that's what I did, and here we are.

DET. THORNE  
Couldn't've been easy moving to a whole new country.

DET. COOPER  
(sarcastic)  
Well it's a good thing people are so welcoming and open-minded here...  
(sincere)  
Parker never cared about that.



Det. Thorne is quiet for a moment.

DET. THORNE  
Did your family move with you?

Cooper shakes his head.

DET. COOPER  
My family's back in Nigeria. I  
haven't been home in... in a long  
time.

DET. THORNE  
Must get lonely.

DET. COOPER  
I have the job, and I had Parker.

DET. THORNE  
I'm sorry, I didn't mean to...

DET. COOPER  
It's fine. It is what it is.

Thorne sits back in her seat, studying Cooper who's still  
combing through the files. She takes a big sip from her  
drink.

DET. THORNE  
...Commissioner also told me that  
he saved your life...

Cooper's eyes flick up, shocked.

DET. THORNE (CONT'D)  
... when you were newly partnered  
up. You weren't getting along. Two  
strong personalities bumping heads.

Cooper tenses up, but stays silent.

DET. THORNE (CONT'D)  
Until he pushed you out of the way  
from a truck. It was just a regular  
shift. Nothing like in the movies.  
Just a driver who was checking his  
phone and didn't see you.  
Commissioner said you started  
trusting each other after that. You  
knew he had your back.

Cooper's hands start curling into fists.



DET. THORNE (CONT'D)  
Is that why you're so hellbent to  
find his killer? You feel guilty-

Cooper suddenly slams his glass down on the table... HARD.  
Thorne jumps a little. He stands up, looking down on her.

DET. COOPER  
What the hell're you really doing  
here Thorne?!

Thorne stands up to meet Cooper's eye-line.

DET. THORNE  
You're obsessed Cooper. You're  
losing your sense of judgment.

DET. COOPER  
My judgment's fine!

DET. THORNE  
All you do is work! It's going to  
kill you one day!

DET. COOPER  
What concern is that to you!

DET. THORNE  
Because you're my partner now, and  
I have your back, just like Parker  
di-

Cooper gets right in Thorne's face.

DET. COOPER  
You're NOT Elijah!

The yelling suddenly stops. Cooper and Thorne are just inches  
from each other, both catching their breath.